

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This application has been reconsidered carefully in light of the Office Communication dated as mailed on 07 December 2005. A careful reconsideration of the application by the Examiner in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

5 This response is timely filed as it is filed within the one (1) month shortened statutory period for response to the outstanding Office Action.

No additional claim fee is believed due as a result of this Amendment because neither the total number of pending claims nor the number of pending independent claims is believed to exceed the total number and the number of independent claims, 10 respectively, for which fees have previously been paid. If, however, it is determined that such a fee is properly due as a result of this communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of such fees or credit any overpayment, associated with this communication, to Deposit Account 19-3550.

Amendment to the Claims

15 By the above,

1. claims 18-28 have been canceled without prejudice, and
2. claims 29-39 have been added to more fully and completely claim the disclosed subject matter.

Newly added claims 29-39 find support throughout the originally filed 20 application. More specifically, newly added independent claim 29 finds support in original claims 1 and 2 and on page 19, lines 21-25, for example. Newly added claim 30 finds support on page 19, lines 21-25, for example. Newly added claims 31-39 find support in original claims 3-11, respectively, for example.

Claims 1-17 and 29-39 remain in the application.

25 **Elections/Restrictions**

Under 35 U.S.C. 121, restriction to one of the following inventions has been required:

- I. Claims 1-17, drawn to an absorbent article, classified in class 604, subclass 383.
- II. Claims 18-19, drawn to an absorbent article, classified in class 604, 30 subclass 378.
- III. Claims 20-28, drawn to an absorbent article, classified in class 385.23.

The invention of Group I (i.e., claims 1-17) is elected. By the above, non-elected claims 18-28 have been canceled without prejudice. Moreover, claims 29-39, also believed directed to the invention of Group I, have been added to more fully and completely claim the disclosed subject matter.

5

Conclusion

It is believed that the above election (i.e., Group I, drawn to an absorbent article, with at least claims 1-17 and 29-39 believed to be properly examined herein) is properly responsive to the requirements contained in the Action and that the application is in condition for substantive examination. Should the Examiner detect any issue or have
10 any question which might be resolved via a telephone discussion, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned via telephone at (847) 490-1400, in an effort to expedite examination of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



Nick C. Kottis
Registration No. 31,974

Pauley Petersen & Erickson
2800 West Higgins Road; Suite 365
Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60195
TEL (847) 490-1400
FAX (847) 490-1403